

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 17, 2017

The Honorable Eric Greitens
Governor of Missouri
The Missouri State Capitol
201 W Capitol Ave, Room 216
Jefferson City, Missouri 65101

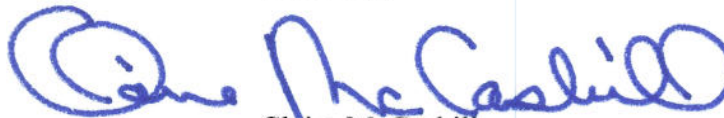
Dear Governor Greitens:

As you know, the opioid epidemic in Missouri has become a historic public health crisis affecting individuals and communities across the state. I am bitterly disappointed that the Missouri State Legislature has once again failed to implement a Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), a common-sense, bipartisan measure to prevent opioid deaths. Due to this inaction, Missouri remains the only state without a PDMP, continuing to put more Missourians at risk for opioid addiction.

PDMPs are critical resources for health professionals that can help curb over-prescribing and doctor shopping. Despite state inaction, cities and counties across Missouri have worked to establish local PDMPs. I support these local efforts and have successfully worked to ensure that local PDMPs can apply for federal PDMP funding. But ultimately, a statewide PDMP that covers all Missourians would be more effective and efficient.

That is why I strongly support Representative Holly Rehder's request for you to call a special session of the Missouri State Legislature in order to pass an effective PDMP, drafted toward success, such as the legislation proposed by Rep. Rehder. The bi-partisan effort to establish this tool to abate over-prescribing of opioids will not only save the lives of Missourians, but also help to prevent individuals from traveling to Missouri specifically for the purpose of exploiting the lack of monitoring in the state. Requiring the State Legislature to hold a vote is the right thing to do—Missourians are counting on your action and we must not turn our backs on these individuals who need our help.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill
U.S. Senator

Cc: Representative Holly Rehder
Missouri House District 148